PROF. SAIF-UD-DTN SOZ: Sir, I am happy that an important question has been asked, but before replying to that, I would say that we have taken action wherever the water table has gone down. We have notified the areas, and have told the States that they cannot draw any more water; a notification has been issued, and further notification will be issued. I am happy that Dr. Karan Singh has raised a question on rainwater harvesting. We have prepared a Model Bill earlier. The response from the hon. Chief Ministers was a little lukewarm, in some States. In the North-East, there is no problem. But I have fought a battle for six months with the Chief Ministers, and finally, I am reporting to this August House that Chief Ministers have responded very favourably except one or two States. I am trying to persuade them to adopt the Model Bill, have a legislation, protect the groundwater and recharge the groundwater in a big way. If you ask what the Chief Ministers have done, I have details for that, and I am conscious that the Chief Ministers should respond, and the whole country should have rainwater harvesting on the routes for drinking water; they must recharge groundwater and rainwater should not be wasted.

Committee on pricing of gas

*184. SHRI AMAR SINGH:††
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have appointed any Committee to go into various aspects of pricing of gas produced under the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP);

(b) if so, what is the composition of this Committee; and

(c) whether representatives of other Government Departments were associated in the Committee and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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††The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri AmarSingh.

Statement

(a) to (c) A Committee was constituted by the Government to formulate transparent guidelines for approving gas price formula/basis for granting Government approval under the Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) for the purpose of computing cost petroleum, profit petroleum royalty and other calculations required under PSCs. The Committee did not go into the principles of natural gas pricing.

2. The composition of the Committee was as under:—

(i) Joint Secretary a Financial Adviser, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MOP&NG)-Chairman

(ii) Joint Secretary (Exploration), MOP&NG-Member (iii)

Joint Secretary (Marketing), MOP&NG-Member (iv)

Director General DGH-Member

(v) Director (Exploration-ll)-Member Secretary

3. This Committee being a departmental one and entrusted with the task of valuation of Government take under the PSCs, did not include members of other Ministries. However, the Committee had sought the views of various stakeholders across different sectoral industries/users, had extensive interaction with them, and has taken their views into consideration while finalizing its recommendations.

श्री अमर सिंह : सर, आपके माध्यम से मै पहले सप्लिमेंट्री के रुप में माननीय मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूं कि क्या सरकार को आंध्र प्रदेश के मुख्य मंत्री से कृष्णा-गोदावरी गैस की कीमतों की वृद्धि के संबंध में कोई पत्र मिला है? सर, वित्त मंत्री जी यहां बैठे हुए है, वित्त मंत्रालय और योजना आयोग से गैस की कीमतों के संबंध मे कुछ सुझाव लेने की बात थी और इंटर मिनिस्ट्रियल समिति नही बनी, इसके क्या कारण है?

श्री मुरली देवरा : सर, सम्माननीय सदस्य ने जो कमिटी की बात की है, वह हमारी मिनिस्ट्री की कमिटी बनी,There was no need to have and Inter-Ministerial Committee. We consulted the members of other Committees on this. If you want, we will present it on the Table.

श्री अमर सिंह: विवाद नही था क्या वित्त मंत्रालय और योजना आयोग में?

SHRI MURLI DEORA: As far as the letter from the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh is concerned, I am not aware of that.

श्री अमर सिंह: सर, मेरा यह स्पेसिफिक प्रश्न है माननीय पेट्रोलियम मंत्री जी से कि इंटर मिनिस्ट्रियल कमिटी के गठन में क्या वित्त मंत्रालय और योजना आयोग में कोई मतभेद था?

SHRI MURLI DEORA: Sorry, I do not know.

श्री अमर सिंह: अच्छा, अंदर की बात है।...(**व्यवधान**)... और मेरा दूसरा सप्लिमेंट्री यह है ...(**व्यवधान**)... दूसरा सप्लिमेंट्री तो पूछ सकता हूं।

एक माननीय सदस्य: हो गया, वह हो तो गया।

श्री अमर सिंह: दूसरा सप्लिमेंट्री नही पूछा है।

सर, मेरा दूसरा सप्लिमेंट्री है कि क्या सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि हमारे देश में ऊर्जा की कीमत अन्य देशों के मुकाबले 100 प्रतिशत अधिक है? इसके क्या कारण है तथा इस संबंध में माननीय मंत्री जी क्या कदम उठा रहे है? सर, पूरे विश्व में जो ऊर्जा की कीमत है, उसके मुकाबले हमारे यहां 100 प्रतिशत अधिक कीमत है।

श्री सभापति: यह प्रश्न गैस से संबंधित है

श्री मुरली देवरा : सर, सह सप्लीमेंट्री इस सवाल से संबंधित नहीं है ।

श्री सभापति: सर, अबू आसिम आजमी। हो गया ठीक है। श्री सी. रामचन्दैय्या।

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Would the hon. Minister reply to the fact that GAIL levies' transportation charges on customers with differential pricing standards? In the Hazira-Bijapur-Jagdishpur pipeline, it is being charged in proportion to the quantity supplied and they have been collecting fixed charges from the customers on k.g. basin with three per cent escalation every year despite the fact that gas supply in the region is declining both on account of dwindling gas supply and allocation to more industrial consumers. So there is three per cent escalation in this tariff which they are collecting resulting in huge losses to the fertilizer industries in the State of Andhra Pradesh. Will the Minister try to remove this anomaly?

SHRI MURLI DEORA: Sir, this is a suggestion for action and I will try to do it.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Sir, under the Production Sharing Contracts, the contractor shall endeavour to sell gas at arm's length price to the parties of the contract for their benefit. Arm's length sales moans sales made freely in the open market in freely convertible currencies between willing and unrelated sellers and buyers and in which such buyers and sellers have no contractual or other relationship or common interest to influence the buying or selling price. Is the formula, or, the basis on which the prices shall be determined under PSC, being approved by the Government? Similarly, for granting the approval, will the Government take into account the prevailing policy, if any, on pricing of gas including any linkages with traded liquid fuels?

SHRI MURLI DEORA: Sir, the question put by the hon. Member pertain to Production Sharing Contracts. The contractor sells the gas at arm's length prices to the benefit of parties to the contract. Arm's length sales means sales made freely in the open market in freely convertible currencies; it is willing and related to sellers and buyers, in which there is no contractual obligation on the other. The formula or the basis on which the prices will be determined, which the hon. Member has asked, under the PSC, shall be approved by the Government. For granting the approval, the Government shall take into account the prevailing policy, if any, on pricing of gas including anu linkages with traded liquid fuels.

श्री सभापति : नैक्स्ट क्वेश्न ...(**व्यवधान**)...

श्री अमर सिंह: एक सैकंड सर ...(**व्यवधान**)... एक सैकंड सर ...(**व्यवधान**)...

श्री सभापति: नही, नही, नैक्स्ट क्वेश्चन ...(**व्यवधान**)... नही नही ...(**व्यवधान**)... अमर सिंह जी यह गलत है ...(**व्यवधान**)... पहले आप मेरी सुनिए ...(**व्यवधान**)... यह गलत है ...(**व्यवधान**)... ठीक है ठीक है ...(**व्यवधान**)...

Memorial for Morarji Desai

*185. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to develop a memorial Abhay Ghat' in the memory of former Prime Minister of India, late Shri Morarji Desai;